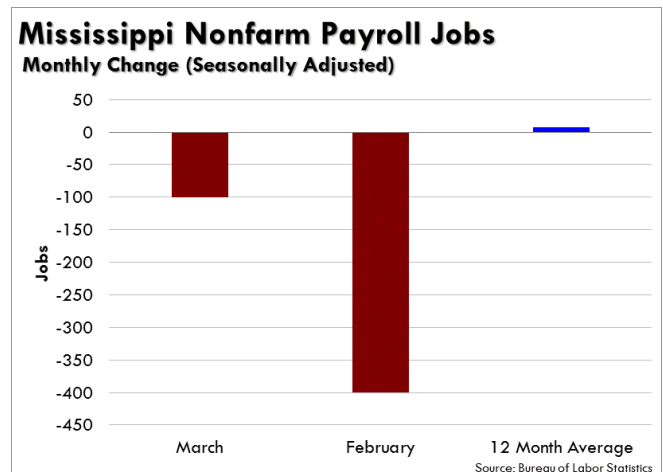
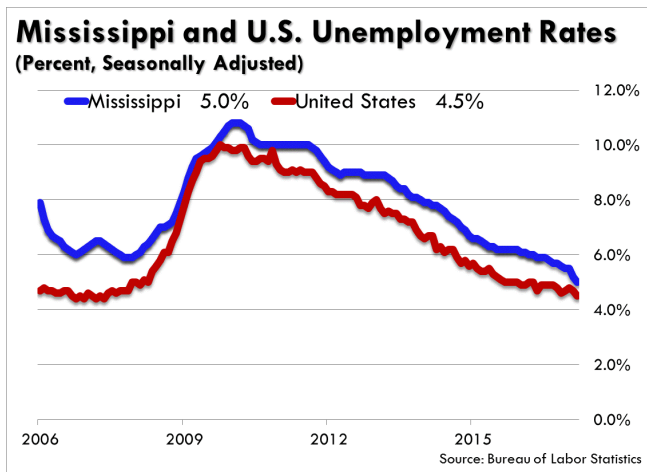


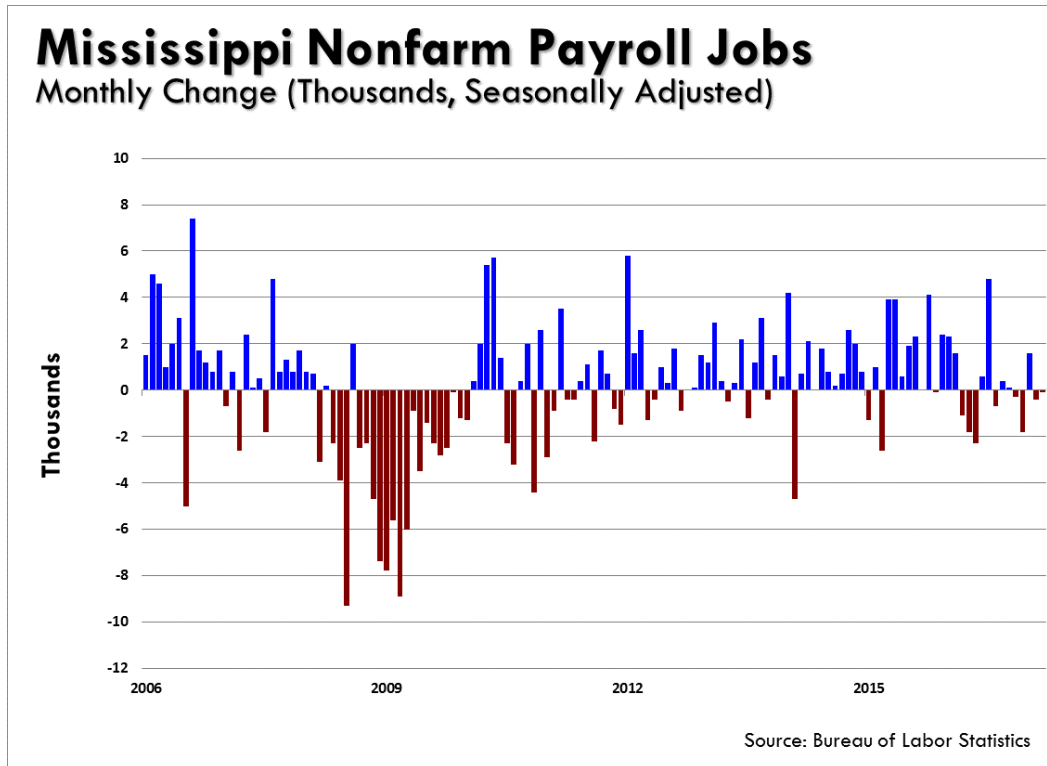


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Mississippi lost 100 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Mississippi added 100 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 1 percentage point from 6 percent.
- **In March, Mississippi's private sector lost 500 jobs** and over the past twelve months it declined by 1,500 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Mississippians fell by 2,312 in March**, and over the past year 30,902 Mississippians found jobs.
- Mississippi's **labor force participation rate increased to 56.9 percent** from 56.7 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.7 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Mississippi Payroll Employment

Mississippi lost 100 jobs, or 0.01 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Mississippi lost 400 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Mississippi increased by 100, or 0.01 percent. Mississippi nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

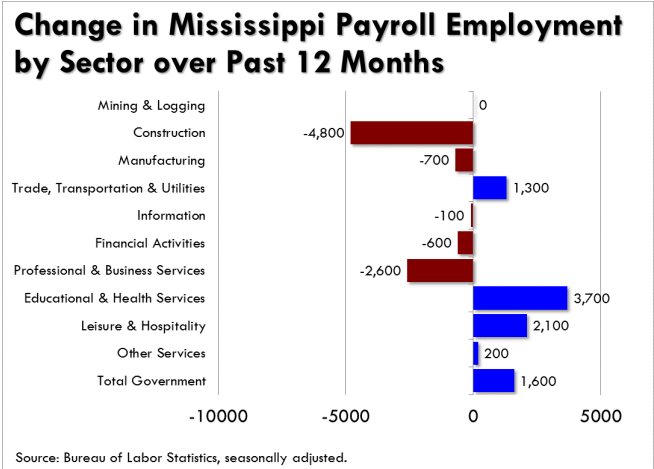
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Mississippi ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Mississippi's private-sector lost 500 jobs, or 0.06 percent. The private-sector in Mississippi lost 500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Mississippi declined by 1,500, or 0.17 percent. Mississippi private-sector payroll employment has increased in 4 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Mississippi ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Educational & Health Services (+1,100) and Professional & Business Services (+900). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-2,300) and Construction (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+3,700) and Leisure & Hospitality (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (-4,800) and Professional & Business Services (-2,600).



Mississippi Labor Force Statistics

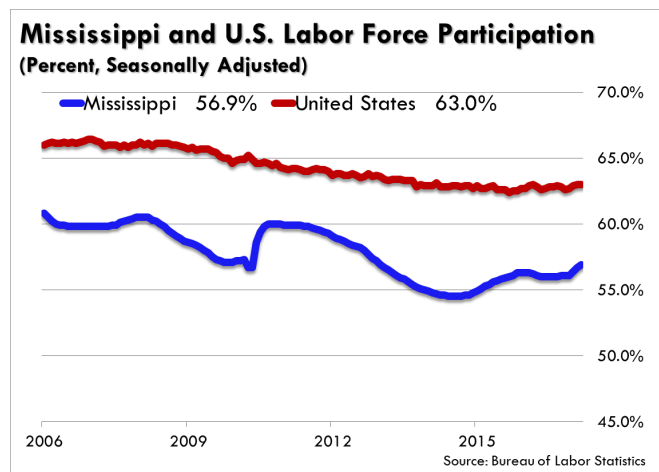
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Mississippi rose to 56.9 percent in March from 56.7 percent the prior month. At 56.9 percent, Mississippi has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Mississippi is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi was 60.5 percent in March 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi occurred in September 1994 when the labor force participation rate hit 63.5 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 54.5 percent in September 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Mississippi. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Mississippi civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 54.0 percent in March from 53.7 percent the prior month. At 54.0 percent, Mississippi has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios



in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi is 1.2 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi was 56.9 percent in January 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Mississippi occurred in May 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 59.8 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 50.4 percent in June 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in July 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio was 50.4 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

